

young children in federally-subsidized homes in Chicago have suffered lead poisoning stemming from exposure to lead-based paint.

These issues have led to Illinois having some of the country's highest rates of children with elevated blood lead blood levels, which, unfortunately, have hit low-income and minority communities the hardest.

Thankfully, however, lead levels in Illinois and across the nation have not risen to the severity of those in Flint.

But the widespread nature of these issues does show that we need to get serious about investing in infrastructure programs that address the housing, environmental, and public health aspects of preventing lead contamination in American homes. That is why I was proud to join Senators from both sides of the aisle in supporting a bipartisan deal to address the ongoing lead crisis in Flint and other communities across the country and ensure all Americans have access to safe drinking water.

The Senate's bipartisan WRDA bill provides \$220 million in direct emergency assistance to Flint and other communities facing similar drinking water emergencies. It provides \$1.4 billion over five years to help small and disadvantaged communities comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The bill modernizes our State Revolving Loan Fund program and provides \$300 million in grants for communities to replace lead service lines. And because we are also seeing high levels of lead in our schools' water, the bill authorizes \$100 million for additional lead testing in schools.

This bill also addresses many of the issues that I raised in the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act that I introduced with Senator MENENDEZ and the CLEAR Act that I introduced with Senator CARDIN, two bills that would ensure our children are protected from the dangerous effects of lead in our water and our housing.

While we still haven't figured out our differences over aid for communities affected by lead contamination, Democrats and Republicans have finally agreed to address the Zika public health emergency in this bill.

In February, the President requested \$1.9 billion to fight the Zika virus. In May, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill to provide \$1.1 billion in emergency funding to combat this virus, but then partisan politics took over. Republicans insisted on attaching a variety of controversial policy riders to the Zika bill, from attempting to overturn provisions of the Clean Water Act to trying to block money from going to Planned Parenthood health centers.

Thankfully, 7 months after the President first made his request, common sense is prevailing and Republicans have finally dropped their outrageous demands to load this bill up with contentious and extraneous items. I wish it had happened sooner. The bill before

us today includes \$1.1 billion in funding to help States and our Federal health agencies properly respond to the ongoing Zika epidemic. This money will be used for vaccine development, mosquito control, and the delivery of needed health care.

What the bill before us today does NOT include are ill-conceived partisan poison pills. As of last week, there were more than 23,000 reported cases of Zika in the United States and its territories, including more than 2,000 pregnant women. We are 7 months overdue in passing this emergency funding. It is my hope that pregnant women and children won't have to wait much longer.

While this bill is missing vital funding for Flint, Leader MCCONNELL had no problem including controversial language that limits the Security and Exchange Commission's ability to require disclosure of corporate political spending.

In 2010, the Supreme Court issued a far-reaching decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. On a divided 5-4 vote, the Court struck down years of precedent and held that the First Amendment permitted corporations to spend freely from their treasuries to influence elections. As a result of *Citizens United* and the series of decisions that followed in its wake, special interests and wealthy, well-connected campaign donors have so far poured more than \$2 billion dollars of outside spending into recent Federal elections, including 2016 races.

In the years since *Citizens United*, several of my colleagues and I have called for the SEC to initiate a rulemaking requiring public companies to disclose their political spending to shareholders. More than 1.2 million securities experts, institutional and individual investors, and members of the public have asked the SEC for a disclosure rule.

Such a rulemaking would bring much needed transparency to the U.S. political process. Shareholders deserve to know when outside spending in political campaigns comes from the coffers of a company they have invested in.

Unfortunately, last year, this provision limiting the SEC's rulemaking authority was slipped into the omnibus appropriations bill, which we had to pass in order to fund the government for the 2016 fiscal year. We should not allow this rider to continue to strangle the SEC's authority.

Despite weeks of bipartisan progress on a deal to fund the government, the Republicans have decided to move forward on a bill that continues to ignore the ongoing crisis in Flint and other cities like Chicago. Congress and the Federal government's primary responsibility is to protect the American people. And just as the Federal government always helps when Americans are hit by disasters, it should do so now.

Like the communities in Louisiana suffering from devastating flooding,

the people of Flint deserve our help in responding to this public health emergency. A deal to provide funding for Flint has already passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. We need to address the emergency in Flint NOW, in this bill. The people of Flint have waited long enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be controlled by the majority.

The Senator from Wyoming.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Senate minority leader, Senator REID, came to the floor a couple of days ago and talked about health care. He said: If people would just look at the newspaper, they would see that ObamaCare has changed America—in his words—for the better.

Well, millions of Americans do pick up the newspaper. I hope many of them saw the Presiding Officer's article in today's Wall Street Journal about some of the travel and things he has seen regarding our Nation's security. But I would like to point out to Senator REID that there have been headlines in the papers repeatedly, including one in the Reno Gazette-Journal this month, that said his home State—"Nevada ranked 48th in healthcare by finance website." This from a finance Web site. They are talking about just how bad the health care law has been for the people of his home State of Nevada. It was about a new survey that looked at things such as health care costs and access to care and how it impacts people at home. So if ObamaCare is so great—at least as great as Senator REID says it is—then why is his home State ranked almost dead last?

Look, Americans are seeing headlines like the one that appeared on the front page of the Washington Times the day the Senator came to the floor. Had he picked it up and looked at it on the way to the floor, he would have seen the headline on the front page saying "Failures of Obamacare. . . ." This was on the front page the day he came to the floor and said: Check out the headlines. The article says: "Democrats see need for fallback plan." They need a fallback plan because this health care law has been so devastating to people all across this country. If ObamaCare is so great, why do the Democrats need a fallback plan?

Look, people across the country are seeing headlines like this every day.

A Washington Post headline: "Health-care exchange sign-ups fall short of forecasts."

The New York Times: "ObamaCare Options? In Many Parts of Country, Only One Insurer Will Remain."

Another New York Times article: "Cost of health law's plans set to rise more sharply."

This is from the paper The Hill: "Dems to GOP: Help us fix ObamaCare."

They didn't turn to Republicans for solutions and ideas when they forced it through on a party-line vote. They didn't listen to us and our concerns about the impact of this law on the families of this country. Now they come to us and ask us to help them fix the mess they have made.

USA TODAY—I would point out to Senator REID—“Obamacare rate hikes rattle consumers, could threaten enrollment.”

The New York Times: “The Incredible Shrinking Obamacare.”

Senator REID came to the floor and made his statement just a couple of days ago. Let me point out a few other headlines that have arrived since then.

Bloomberg, Friday: “Failing Obamacare Nonprofit Co-Ops Add to ‘Death Spiral’ Fears.”

You don't even have to turn to the newspapers; you could have turned on the radio—National Public Radio, just this past Friday, talking about people who are buying insurance for their insurance because the ObamaCare program is so bad for them personally.

Sunday's New York Times, in the business section: “Why Obamacare Markets Are in Crisis.”

I would suggest the minority leader look at today's newspaper in Indiana regarding Indiana University health plans. “IU Health Plans quit Obamacare exchange, citing ‘heightened financial uncertainty.’”

Those are the headlines people are seeing all across the country. So I am not sure exactly what newspapers the minority leader is reading, but he is not reading the same papers Americans all across the country are reading.

All across the country, people are hearing about their rates going up—in Georgia, 33 percent; Illinois, 45 percent; Tennessee, 59 percent—and people are feeling the pinch from this rising cost of the Obama health care law. It is hurting the people who buy insurance through ObamaCare exchanges, and it is hurting the people who get their insurance through their jobs. A new report by the Kaiser Family Foundation says that for people who get their insurance at work, the deductibles have risen four times faster than the premiums did. So it is not just the premiums going up, but the deductibles are going up. And all of those are new costs as a result of the health care law. The American people are feeling it in their wallets, and millions of Americans are rejecting ObamaCare insurance because they know it is not a good value for them personally.

According to one article, 8 million people face tax penalties this year for not buying ObamaCare coverage. These are people who can't afford this expensive, second-rate insurance, or they do not think it is right for them or their family. The Democrats who wrote this law and who are now asking for help in “fixing it” do not really care; they just want people to write their checks to the IRS, their penalties because of the mandates of the law—the taxes, the

finances. These are for people who have no options.

No options is exactly the situation most Americans are facing. Major insurance companies have decided to leave most of the ObamaCare markets. Just look at the insurers who are fleeing the ObamaCare exchange. Humana is selling coverage in 19 States this year; it is going to be in just 11 States next year. Look at UnitedHealthcare—in 34 States this year but down to 3 next year. Aetna is going from selling ObamaCare plans in 15 States this year to just 4 States next year.

On November 1, millions of Americans will go to sign up for ObamaCare and they will find their insurance plan has disappeared. Companies are running for the exits. The program is collapsing. It is in a death spiral. And so far, of the 23 co-ops under the health care law, 17 of them have failed, including the one in the home State of Senator REID, Nevada, which went out of business at the end of last year.

With all these companies shutting down and dropping out, people living in one-third of the country are going to be left with just one option for ObamaCare coverage in November. One option is no choice. It is not a marketplace, it is a monopoly.

Under ObamaCare, we have seen medical costs skyrocketing and people losing their insurance. So it is no surprise that there is enormous anger and anxiety about the health care law, to the point that in a Gallup poll earlier this month, 29 percent of American families say they have actually been hurt personally by the health care law and only 18 percent say they have been helped.

Mr. President, Republicans said this was what was going to happen. Democrats ignored them. They ignored our concerns to try to improve health care for all Americans. Democrats went into a back room, behind closed doors in HARRY REID's office, they wrote a law they passed with no Republican support, and this is the result.

We have offered direct solutions to the problems. We have offered relief for the American people. My colleague from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, who is now on the floor, has offered a bill to provide that relief for people who are hit with mandates, taxes, fines, and penalties because of the mandates of a law that is too expensive, too costly, and hurting American families. I am proud to cosponsor Senator MCCAIN's legislation to provide that relief.

So when people say “Will you work with Democrats?” I will say this: If Democrats want to work on a plan that provides nothing but more ObamaCare and more Federal control, count me out, but if they want to work on a plan, such as the plan I have introduced with Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina and Senator AYOTTE to provide opportunity, freedom, choice, and flexibility at the State level, to empower individuals in States, then count me in.

But, Mr. President, when you look at a program that is impacting America,

with 29 percent of people having been hurt by the President and his law and only 18 percent helped, I would say to the President of the United States: You shouldn't have had to hurt so many good people while trying to help those who didn't have insurance.

This is a law that needs to be repealed and replaced, and right now I am proud to stand with Senator MCCAIN in his efforts to provide relief to the families who feel betrayed by this President and this law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wyoming, who continues to be the voice of reason and the voice for so many millions of Americans who feel betrayed by ObamaCare—who have not been given their choice of a doctor if they wanted a doctor, who have not been able to keep the policy that the President promised they would be able to keep, period. He is the voice of those fellow citizens of mine who, in all counties but one in my home State of Arizona, have one choice—not a choice of their doctor, not a choice of their health care policy, but one, and one only. And now they are looking at as much as a 65-percent increase in the rate of their premiums beginning the next 1st of November—disgraceful.

I thank the doctor. I thank my colleague and friend from Wyoming.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 30 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GENOCIDE IN SYRIA

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last night was one of the most watched political events in American history: the debate between Donald Trump and Secretary Clinton. A lot of issues were addressed or not addressed, depending on your point of view. But the stunning aspect of this, to me, is there was not a single comment about the genocide taking place in Syria as we speak—not a comment about this terrible situation, which has taken the lives of over 400,000 innocent men, women, and children in Syria, driven 6 million into refugee status, destabilized the European Union, and continues to this day in an endless flood. I think the American people deserve better than what they got last night, to be honest. So the beat goes on, the genocide goes on, and the slaughter goes on—only at an increased tempo.

From today's Wall Street Journal: “Syria Defies Calls to End Offensive.” Of course they defy calls to end the offensive because their whole job is to take Aleppo, consolidate their control, kill off anybody who is in opposition,

and then declare a cessation of hostilities once they have solidified their position and slaughtered thousands more.

Whatever happened to the United States' commitment that Bashar al-Assad had to leave power? Obviously, that is not happening, and it is being abetted by our intrepid Secretary of State. But it is not the fault of the Secretary of State; it is the fault of the President of the United States. "It would be diplomatic malpractice' not to pursue talks, Mr. Kerry said."

"It would be diplomatic malpractice."

One of the greatest diplomats that I have ever had the honor of knowing is a man by the name of George Shultz, one of the major reasons the Cold War ended and we won. I would like to give a quote in direct contradiction to Mr. Kerry's continuous quest to bend the knee and hope that Vladimir Putin will agree with him and stop the slaughter in Syria—time after time after time. Here is what Secretary Shultz said on diplomacy:

Americans have sometimes tended to think that power and diplomacy are two distinct alternatives. This reflects a fundamental misunderstanding. The truth is, power and diplomacy must always go together, or we will accomplish very little in this world. Power must always be guided by purpose. At the same time, the hard reality is that diplomacy not backed by strength will always be ineffectual at best, dangerous at worst.

I wish the Secretary of State would read what one of the great diplomats and leaders of our time, Secretary George Shultz, said.

Meanwhile, the slaughter goes on. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial, "As Aleppo burns," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 27, 2016]

AS ALEPPO BURNS

"WHAT RUSSIA is sponsoring and doing" in the Syrian city of Aleppo "is barbarism," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, said on Sunday. She's right: For days, Russian and Syrian planes have rained bombs—including white phosphorus, cluster munitions and "bunker-busters" designed to penetrate basements—on the rebel-held side of the city. Hundreds of civilians have been killed; as many as half are children, U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura described "new heights of horror." Ms. Power said that "instead of helping get lifesaving aid to civilians, Russia and [Syria] are bombing the humanitarian convoys, hospitals and first responders who are trying desperately to keep people alive."

It goes without saying that this war-crimes-rich offensive, which Syria's U.N. ambassador said is aimed at recapturing east Aleppo, has shredded the Obama administration's attempt to win Russian and Syrian compliance with a cessation of hostilities. So naturally reporters asked senior officials as the "attack was getting underway how the United States would respond. "I don't think . . . this is the time to say where we will go from here," one answered. Said another: "We're waiting to see what the Russians come back with."

In other words: Hem, haw.

By Monday, the administration's response seemed clear: It will hotly condemn the assault on Aleppo, but do absolutely nothing to stop it. On the contrary, Secretary of State John F. Kerry insisted he will continue to go back to the regime of Vladimir Putin with diplomatic offers, hoping it will choose to stop bombing. "The United States makes absolutely no apology for going the extra mile to try and ease the suffering of the Syrian people," he grandly declared after a meeting Thursday on Syria. By "extra mile," he doesn't mean actual U.S. steps to protect civilians—just more futile and debasing appeals to Moscow.

The Putin and Bashar al-Assad regimes are well aware that the only U.S. action President Obama has authorized is diplomatic, and that they are therefore under no pressure to alter their behavior. They already obtained, via Mr. Kerry, U.S. agreement to the principle that the Assad regime should remain in power while the United States and Russia join in fighting those rebels deemed to be terrorists. The regime then took advantage of a mistaken bombing of Syrian soldiers in eastern Syria to launch the assault on Aleppo, and Russia joined in. If it succeeds, Damascus will have essentially won the civil war and will have no real need for the negotiations Mr. Kerry says the cease-fire should lead to. If the offensive stalls, Mr. Putin can send Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov back to renew the deal with Mr. Kerry. Either way, Russia wins.

The losers are the civilian trapped in eastern Aleppo—250,000 to 275,000 human beings—who are cut off from supplies of food and medicine and being bombed mercilessly. They are being offered the same choice the regime has successfully imposed on other towns across the country: surrender or starve. Those who try to approach the evacuation corridors Russia says have been established are shot at. They are, indeed, victims of barbarism—but the rhetoric of U.S. diplomats, and continued petitioning to Mr. Putin, won't help them much.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, here we are:

What Russia is sponsoring and doing in the Syrian city of Aleppo "is barbarism," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said on Sunday. She's right: For days, Russian and Syrian planes have rained bombs—including white phosphorus, cluster munitions and "bunker-busters" designed to penetrate basements—on the rebel-held side of the city. Hundreds of civilians have been killed; as many as half are children. . . . Ms. Powers said that "instead of helping get lifesaving aid to civilians, Russia and [Syria] are bombing the humanitarian convoys, hospitals and first responders who are trying desperately to keep people alive."

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We are now treated to seeing the Secretary of State of the most powerful Nation on Earth on bended knee, going to Moscow, begging his friend Lavrov to stop this slaughter. Did anybody not

see the picture of the little boy covered with dirt and blood? Did no one see that?

The Putin and Bashar al-Assad regimes are well aware that the only U.S. action President Obama has authorized is diplomatic, and that they are therefore under no pressure to alter their behavior. They already obtained, via Mr. Kerry, U.S. agreement to the principle that the Assad regime should remain in power while the United States and Russia join in fighting those rebels deemed to be terrorists.

Remember, the President of the United States said: It's not a matter of whether Bashar al-Assad will leave but a matter of when.

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I don't claim to be an academician, but I am a student of history. There was a guy named Calgacus, who, talking to his people who were fighting against the Romans, once described the Roman conquest of Carthage—where not one stone was left on top of the other, the ground was salted, and the Carthaginians were slaughtered. He described it: They made a desert, and they called it peace.

We are seeing a repetition of history. My friends, Mr. Assad, Mr. Putin, the Iranians, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, Hezbollah are making a desert, and they will call it peace. This is one of the most shameful chapters in American history.

I ask my friend and colleague, how many hospitals, markets, schools, and playgrounds do Russian and Syrian regime aircraft have to bomb before we realize that Putin and Assad are not interested in stopping the violence? They are interested in victory; they are not interested in stopping the violence. How many aid warehouses and U.N. humanitarian convoys do they have to destroy before we realize Putin and Assad are not interested in delivering aid to those in need? Four hundred thousand Syrian civilians have been murdered. Six million are refugees. When will the President of the United States do what is necessary to stop this slaughter before they make it a desert?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his passion and caring for the people of Aleppo and Syria. History will judge Senator McCain well. I am proud to be by his side.

But let's be honest with each other. It is not just the Obama administration that is the problem here. Where is

the United Nations? A convoy carrying aid to Aleppo was bombed, and we all believe it was by the Russians. What has the U.N. done? What about the countries in the region that border Syria? What do they know? Our friends in France have been attacked several times based on ISIL's ability to project wars by having the caliphate in Syria. They have dropped bombs. All of us have used air power. Where is Trump? If you can understand what he would do differently, I would love to hear it. I don't understand it. I can tell you this, Secretary Clinton really disappointed me when she said "no ground forces in Iraq and Syria."

Mr. MCCAIN. May I ask my colleague, when former Secretary of State Clinton said "no ground troops in Iraq or Syria," do you think that means the 4,500 that are there now have to be withdrawn? Does she really believe that you can destroy ISIS with air power alone, which was basically what she said last night?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, I agree. We have over 5,000 troops on the ground in Iraq, and if we count the people who come and go, it is closer to 7,000. So from their point of view, I think that is a pretty offensive statement. We have lost one SEAL, and other people are definitely at risk.

We live in an interesting time. It is probably much like the 1930s, when Hitler was building up. I am not saying al-Assad is Hitler, and I am not saying Putin is Hitler. But I am saying there is evil on the march, and most people are not doing anything about it. If you are in Aleppo right now, you feel as the Jewish people must have felt in the 1930s—and other countries who were being overrun by evil—when a lot of people just stood along the sidelines and issued statements.

To Samantha Powers, whom I have known and actually personally like her: Do you think anybody listens to you, Samantha? Do you think anybody cares what you say? Because it is just all words. You have been up there for months now, and every ceasefire agreement has been broken.

To my good friend John Kerry: You said it would be diplomatic malpractice not to try to get a ceasefire solution. At what point does it become malpractice to misread the person you are talking to? At what point will you understand that the Russians are not interested in a ceasefire agreement? They want to install al-Assad in a military fashion so that he cannot be overtaken by power, which means they win.

So to me, the real crime here is that the world, not just Obama, has let this happen, and to the people in this body.

Several years ago, we were in an authorization-to-use-military-force debate after al-Assad used chemical weapons in violation of the redline that President Obama drew. To Senator MCCAIN's credit—and I went with him during Labor Day several years ago. The President called us up and said: I want to take action because it is clear

to us that al-Assad used chemical weapons. We went outside the Oval Office in the driveway and stood by our President, called the Speaker of the House, Mr. Boehner, who stood with the President. There was a lot of Republican support for the idea that the President must act to put this brutal man back in check. That was early in the week. By Friday, President Obama takes a stroll in the Rose Garden with Denis McDonough, and, all of a sudden, now we are coming to Congress.

I have yet to get a call. I read it in the paper. When it came to Congress, it completely melted down. People on our side objected to the use of force, saying we would be the Air Force for Al Qaeda. People on our side did not understand what it meant to draw a red line and not use some force.

There is plenty of blame to go around. People on the Democratic side almost never come to the floor and challenge what is going on in Syria. President Obama is getting a complete pass, except from pockets, like Senator MCCAIN and every now and then an editorial. Why? Most people don't care about Syria because it seems distant.

When you talk about the young boy, it breaks our heart, and then we move on. Most people think we can't get involved ever again in the Middle East because it is just hopeless over there. Here is what I would suggest to you that we learn: If you let Syria continue to deteriorate, you will regret it. The King of Jordan, one of our best allies, is being overrun with Syrian refugees. One in five children in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee. This war will never end until America leads.

Back to Obama—you and your administration are very deceitful when it comes to foreign policy. You are the ones who told us, as to Benghazi, that this was a protest caused by a hateful video rather than an organized terrorist attack, for weeks. In the debate last night, Secretary Clinton said that the reason we had no troops in Iraq was because the Iraqis did not want them and would not agree to leave some troops behind.

All I can say is that is a lie. I know that to be a lie because I was called by her before the decision to leave was made, and she asked that I, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator Lieberman go to Iraq to talk to the parties about a follow-on force. We did. We went to Prime Minister Maliki, President Barzani of the Kurds, and Mr. Allawi, who was representing the Shia group—the Iraqiya Party, I believe it is called.

The bottom line is that we left there with an understanding that all three groups would work with each other to have a follow-on force because they understood the need for it. This is the moment I will never forget as long as I live. During the meeting with Prime Minister Maliki, when it was my turn to ask him questions, he turned to me before I could speak and said: How many troops are you talking about leaving?

I turned to General Austin, who was the commander, and Ambassador Jeffrey, who was the Ambassador at the time, and I said: General, what is the answer to the Prime Minister's question?

He said: We are still working on that. Here is the truth. There never was a protest outside the consulate in Benghazi. It was always a terrorist attack. They should never have had the Ambassador there to begin with, and they left him hanging.

Here is the truth. The Obama administration wanted to leave. They wanted to get to zero to fulfill a campaign promise. The reason the general could not answer Prime Minister Maliki's question is because the White House was trying to get the numbers down to the point where it wouldn't matter if he left anybody because they were so low.

You can say a lot about Trump. You can say a lot about Republicans, and a lot of it is true. You can say a lot about President Obama and Hillary Clinton when it comes to Iraq. But the one thing you can't say is that it was the Iraqis' fault that we left.

The reason I will not tolerate that is because too many people fought and died to get Iraq back in a better place. The surge did work, and they held it as a success.

Back to Syria, if you don't realize that we have several hundred people on the ground today in Syria, you are dishonoring them. If you don't realize that the strategy Obama has come up with will never work, you are not doing your homework. The people we are training to take ISIL down and to hold Raqqa after they take ISIL down are YPG Kurds. That may not mean anything to you, but it means a lot to the region.

The Kurdish element that is being trained cannot hold Raqqa, cannot liberate Raqqa. General Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said that. The people we are relying on to destroy ISIL can't take them down and hold the territory because it is an Arab town. As to the people we are training to fight ISIL, the vast majority of the force has no interest in going after Assad.

If you leave Assad in power, the war never ends. Some 450,000 people have been slaughtered by Assad's forces—mostly through barrel bombing and brutal tactics. There is no plan to create a military counter push coming from the Syrians themselves to create negotiating space. Without power, there is no diplomacy. The force to destroy ISIL will never be successful in holding the territory. The force we are training to destroy ISIL has no interest in going after Assad. If you leave Assad in power, this never ends.

This whole foreign policy approach of the Obama administration is ill-conceived, shortsighted, and deceitful, and they know everything I am saying is true. There are people in the White House who know that the reason we

left Iraq was because of politics in the White House. There are people in the White House who know—and the Pentagon who know—that the Kurdish force being trained can't get the job done. They are just trying to buy time until the next President comes along.

All I can say about Syria is that it seems to be a faraway place with strange sounding names. It seems to be something we shouldn't get involved in, in the minds of a lot of people. The one thing I would challenge you to think about is that the last time powers gathered up to murder and butcher hundreds of thousands of people, it eventually mattered to us. It is going to matter to you sooner than you think because all of these children who lost their parents and all of these parents who lost their children are looking at us, and they are going to hate our guts, along with the world community at large, because we sat on the sidelines and watched it happen.

Come with me and Senator MCCAIN to a refugee camp and look into these kids' eyes. I see broken-hearted children who need somebody to help them and a good investment. The terrorists see a recruiting opportunity, a literal gift from the world at large. You may not think it will affect you, but I promise you that the policies of the Barack Obama administration—when it comes to Syria—are going to haunt the world for generations if we don't do something about it soon and change course.

Mr. MCCAIN. My colleague mentioned this meeting that we had with Maliki about maintaining a residual force. I would also like to point out to my colleague that the reason given by Obama and then-Secretary of State Clinton was that we couldn't get a status of forces agreement with the Iraqi government, which then would not make it tenable for our troops to remain. We now have 4,000 or 5,000—whatever it is—there. Where is the status of forces agreement that was so necessary then? It is not there because they wanted out.

By the way, I believe it was the President of the United States who said we are leaving behind the most peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Iraq in its history. Last night, Mr. Trump was right when he said that Al Qaeda went to Syria and became ISIS. We had Al Qaeda defeated. It was over.

I would also remind my colleague that one of the most consequential hearings in the history of the Armed Services Committee was when we were about to have a resolution through the Congress calling for the withdrawal of all troops because our strategy had failed. There was no strategy. The Senator from South Carolina and I called for the resignation and the firing of the then-Secretary of Defense of our own President, George W. Bush, because we were failing. Then along came the surge and David Petraeus. It was then-Senator Clinton at that hearing who said—and whoever wrote it for her, in clever style: I would have to have a

willing suspension of disbelief in order to think that the surge will work.

She was wrong then, and she is wrong now because the surge did work—thanks to the sacrifice of so much precious American blood at places like Fallujah. Then, we had it won. Then, the worst lie that I have seen in my time in the Senate was this: Well, we couldn't have stayed because we had to withdraw.

That is a lie. We could have stayed. The Senator from South Carolina just described the meeting we had with Maliki. The fact is clear. Al Qaeda then moved to Syria. It became ISIS. Now we have seen the consequences of the abject failure of that administration, that President, and that Secretary of State. You cannot deny the facts.

I would say to my friend from South Carolina that this didn't have to happen. But what is happening now, as a consequence of that failure—as much as we want to revisit history—is that we could stop it now. We could stop it now. We could declare a no-fly zone. We could have a 100,000-person force—90 percent of them from Sunni Arab countries—and go into Raqqa and take them. We could tell Bashar Assad that he has to stop the slaughter. The barrel bombs have to stop, or we will take their planes out of the air.

You know what would happen? The next time one of them was shot down after dropping bombs and these terrible weapons on innocent civilians, it would stop.

Mr. GRAHAM. You have been a fighter pilot in combat, flying for your Nation, and you know what it is like to risk your life. I would say this. If we had an American President who would tell the Russian President that we are going to train forces inside of Syria to replace Assad because Assad must go for the benefit of the region and the world at large, and if you come after the forces we trained, then you put your own people at risk, they wouldn't come. If you shot down one Syrian jet that was trying to bomb innocent people or the people we are training, it would be hard to get the next pilot to fly. That is the fact. That is a fact, I think.

Here is the other fact. We are doing none of that. We are watching people get slaughtered. Here is the question for those who want to be President and for this body. You are never going to win in Iraq again unless you have some troops left behind this time. Here is the question. Let's say we liberate Mosul, and that is going to be hard to do with the number of troops we have on the ground, because every American soldier is a force multiplier—a trainer, an adviser bringing capability to the fight that the Iraqis don't have themselves. So everyone we have over there, within reason, ensures the demise of ISIL and accelerates the chance of destroying ISIL and not having to rely on the Shia militia from Iran.

If you are worried about Iran being the big winner in Iraq, you should be

because they are. The only way you are going to stop this dynamic is to have more American forces—somewhere around 10,000, and we are getting close at about 7,000 now—and they have to stay behind to keep Iraq from falling apart again. That is my humble opinion.

JOHN MCCAIN has been far more right than he has been wrong. Everybody tells us that every time we suggest something, that would create a lot of problems. All I can say is this: At what point do you realize we have a lot of problems? This thing is going to get worse if it doesn't get better, and the only way for it to get better is to do something different. The 5,000 troops are appreciated. Incrementally, they are doing what we suggested 3 years ago. We are still not there.

But look at Syria. Here is my warning to the American people and to the world at large. What we have on the ground in Syria cannot possibly destroy ISIL and hold the territory. You are going to need a lot more troops from the region who would be welcomed in the area in question. The Kurds cannot liberate Raqqa. They cannot destroy ISIL. They cannot hold the territory. Until you get regional forces involved, this will never work. You will never have any diplomatic solution until there is military pressure put on Assad.

Currently, if you are joining the American effort to destroy ISIL, you are prohibited from going after Assad. The people in Syria and the region want two things—the destruction of ISIL and the removal of Assad, who has been the butcher of Damascus. We are not providing the second. The Russians and the Iranians are all in behind Assad. We have abandoned the people who joined our cause years ago. Four years ago Assad was on the ropes. Obama blinked; the rest is history. Going forward, if we don't have a different ground component in Syria, we will never destroy ISIL and hold the territory, and we will never end the war without putting military pressure on Assad, and that is going to require a regional commitment with an American component. If you don't do that, another 9/11 is coming here because they have the ability to plan and project force. We have seen it in Paris and other places. I am not talking about one or two people; I am talking about a group of people who can do a lot of damage to the United States. Every day that we let Syria get worse, every day that ISIL enjoys the ability to operate, the longer it takes to get them destroyed will put us more at risk. This strategy will not work.

Secretary Clinton's approach is no different than Obama's. She is for a no-fly zone, and I give her credit for that, but if you don't realize we need a new ground component in Syria, then you are giving ISIL the time they need to send their forces throughout the world, including here. If we don't stop them over there, they are coming here, and

our plan to stop them over there will never work unless we change it.

Mr. MCCAIN. I will leave my colleagues again with the words of former Secretary of State George Shultz:

The truth is, power and diplomacy must always go together, or we will accomplish very little in this world. Power must always be guided by purpose. At the same time, the hard reality is that diplomacy not backed by strength will always be ineffectual at best, dangerous at worst.

That is the situation we are in today. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOSE FERNANDEZ

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I awoke early Sunday morning to familiar news in Florida. Three boaters had lost their lives in an accident, and at the time their names were not known. Unfortunately this happens quite often, especially at night and during this time of the year. A couple of hours later, as I was driving to church with my family early that morning, I got a text that I didn't get to look at until we had parked, and it basically said that Jose Fernandez, the all-star pitcher from the Miami Marlins, had lost his life in a boating accident. Immediately I was able to connect the two events and realized that one of the three boaters who had lost their lives in the boating accident was Jose Fernandez—and his two friends, Emilio Macias and Eduardo Rivero.

His death at just 24 years of age has obviously devastated his family, but it has also had an extraordinary impact on our community. It has shaken the Miami Marlins organization and its fans. It has rocked Tampa, FL, where he played in high school, and South Florida communities where he lived and was just starting to make his mark. It has had a deep impact on immigrant communities, especially the Cuban exile communities in South Florida, and, of course, the entire baseball and sporting world.

His talents were unquestionable, even though he had only a brief and shining career in Major League Baseball. He had played for a year, was injured over the past 2 years, and when he came back, he had a better year than he did in 2013 when he was Rookie of the Year. He was obviously a young man on his way to a distinguished career that I believe would have led to the Hall of Fame and, perhaps along the way, a couple of pennants.

It is interesting that his impact goes well beyond what one would normally

think of a star baseball player. You ask yourself: Why did this young man, who had been with us for just a brief moment, lead to such an outpouring of grief from a community? Anywhere you go in Miami, that is all anyone could talk about over the last 48 hours. I think that to understand it, you have to understand his story.

I had never met Jose Fernandez, yet I feel as though I knew him, and that is how millions of people feel. They had never met him, but they feel as if they know him. They feel as though they know him because his story, his family, and his passion, in the end, is our story, both as Cuban Americans and as Americans.

By now, most of the Nation has seen tributes to Jose. They have seen commemorations showing footage of what he accomplished on the field in the way most baseball fans knew him—as Jose Fernandez, the dominant baseball player, the Tampa Alonso High School phenom who lead them to two State titles. He was a first-round draft choice, Rookie of the Year, and two-time All Star. As a baseball player, quite frankly, there were few better than Jose Fernandez. But, from everything we know, off the field, as a human being, a son, a grandson, a teammate, and a neighbor, I believe he was even better.

He was born in Santa Clara, Cuba, in a place where tree branches and rocks are what passes for Louisville sluggers and Rawlings balls. He was drawn to the national sport of Cuba. He would spend countless hours swinging branches at rocks he had collected, dreaming of the day his talents could and would take him somewhere else. Thanks to sacrifices by his mother, who would take him to the ballpark so he could play youth baseball, he started to demonstrate a special talent at a young age.

By the time he was a teenager, like more than a million Cubans during the past 50 years, Jose faced a difficult choice. His stepfather, a baseball player in his own right, had defected after 13 attempts and made himself a life in Tampa. Jose could stay in Cuba, a place that, to this day, is still ruled by a despotic regime where your talent and work can take you only as far as unelected dictators say you can go, or he could risk it all for a chance at freedom. He risked it, not once, but on four separate occasions. So desperate was he to leave that island that he took his chances crossing the Florida Straits on boats that probably had no business being more than a few miles off shore. Three times he tried, and three times he failed. After his third attempt, the Cuban Government put him in prison for 2 months. He was 14 years of age at the time and was placed in a prison cell with hardened criminals, murderers—a boy among the worst.

Then came a fourth try, but instead of a short and treacherous journey to Miami, they chose a longer and more dangerous journey to Mexico. At one point during that fourth journey on a

boat being tossed by crashing waves and high seas, he heard a splash and saw someone in the water thrashing about 60 feet away from the boat. He didn't know who it was, and without thinking, he jumped in to save that person. It was only when he got close to the person who had fallen overboard that he realized who it was—his mother. He recalled swimming toward her and watching her struggle in the rough seas. When he finally reached her, he calmed her and told her: Grab my back, but don't push me down. Let's go slow and we will make it. She held his left shoulder, and with his right arm—by the way, his pitching arm—he paddled. He swam 15 minutes back to the boat in waves he later described as “stupid big,” and he pulled himself and his mother to safety. Jose was 15 years old.

Before America ever met Jose Fernandez and before his fastball earned him millions of dollars and countless fans, this young man of only 15 had struggled against all odds in the middle of the night in rough seas, revealing who he was and what he would one day be. As he would later tell us, the harder part of his life was still to come.

Like so many immigrants, my parents included, his first years were difficult. He struggled when he first arrived, feeling overwhelmed by his new surroundings and new language. He was helpless, alone, and missing his family, especially his grandmother, who he once said was the love of his life: “She was my everything.” He said it was the toughest period of his young life. It was even tougher than the time he spent in a Cuban prison after he tried to defect, but he overcame all of that and eventually came into his own.

He was a star on the high school diamond in Tampa, and the scouts took notice. Before the 2011 draft, Major League Baseball released their scouting report on him. He got high marks for his athletic abilities, but what set him apart was how he rated when it came to his poise, instincts, and aggressiveness. The notes on the official scouting report read: “Exudes confidence. No fear approach.” This was not cockiness or arrogance. It is the kind of peaceful self-assurance that comes from a kid who had known life and death, had known freedom and captivity, and had lived more life in 19 years than a kid his age should have to.

He finally reached the Major Leagues with the Marlins, and right away you saw a young man blessed with Hall of Fame talent, blue-collar work ethic, and played the game with the energy and enthusiasm of a boy who understood and appreciated just how blessed he was.

One of Jose's proudest accomplishments—in fact, he said his proudest—was not on the diamond. We know this because he told us. Last year, Jose became an American citizen, and afterward he said:

This one is my most important accomplishment. I'm an American citizen now. I'm

one of them. I consider myself now to be free.

I thank this amazing country for giving me the opportunity to go to school here and learn the language and pitch in the major leagues.

It's an honor to be a part of this country, and I respect it so much.

Jose knew. He knew how special and fortunate and blessed he was and we are. He knew how improbable his journey was, from the rocks and branches in Santa Clara to the brightest lights of the show, from a Cuban prison to a Major League clubhouse, from living in a Communist nightmare to living the American dream. And that is why Jose's death has hit so many so hard; Jose's story is our story. He reminds so many in my community of someone they know—a brother, a son, or a nephew. Jose represented not just all of us who were fortunate to live our own American dream; he represents countless others who never made it, the ones who lie in unmarked graves along the Florida Straits, those who died in political prisons in Cuba, those who sent their children to America hoping to join them later only to never see them again, those who long gave up hope that life in Cuba could ever return to what it once was but had found new hope, joy, and gratitude in this, the greatest country the world has ever known.

We loved him just a little more and took more pride in him than most, but Jose didn't just belong to Cuban Americans. He was a young man from Santa Clara, Cuba, playing America's pastime in a truly unique American city on a team with players from Taiwan; Venezuela; Japan; Dominican Republic; Mobile, AL; and Panorama, CA. Jose Fernandez was the pride of Miami, but he belonged to every fan who loved to watch him pitch. When Miami saw Jose, they saw more than just a great athlete, they saw all their hopes, dreams, and aspirations—all we are and all we could be, and we said to ourselves: This is what the American dream looks like, and, boy, is the American dream alive and well.

This young man meant a lot to a lot of us for different reasons and in different ways, and now, just as quickly as he came into our lives and was coming into his own and really starting to fulfill his athletic potential—just as we were getting to know him, he was gone.

In a moment of unimaginable grief, I thank his family for bringing him into this world and raising him, despite difficult obstacles, to become the man he was, and for encouraging Jose to never give up in the search for freedom—a freedom that eventually allowed him to share his many gifts with us on and off the field.

Jose Fernandez made Tampa's Alonso High better, the Miami Marlins better, and he made all of baseball better. He made Miami and Tampa better, and the way he lived his life reminded us of how blessed we are to live in this, the greatest Nation on Earth. My friends, that is not bad for a 24-year-old kid from Santa Clara, Cuba.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold his suggestion?

Mr. RUBIO. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to associate myself with those remarks that were made. It is a tragedy to lose such a fighter, talent, and hero like that.

Speaking of heroism, we need a little bit of it on the floor here. We need to have a leadership here that understands when children are being poisoned by lead in their water, we need to do something about it. We need leadership that understands that, just as the people of Louisiana deserve every bit of help, so do the families of Flint. We need a leadership that understands our responsibility to children.

What good are we?

Now, I have to say, I stand here as the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and we are responsible for the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. My partnership with Senator INHOFE, which has been noted by a few around here, has extended to taking care of the people of Flint. We took care of the people of Flint and all of the kids who were exposed to lead in the water in the Water Resources Development Act that passed here with over 90 votes. That is good. That says there is goodness in the U.S. Senate, but unless we can deliver this bill and put it on the President's desk, it is a meaningless goodness. It is for-show goodness.

I have to say, it is so simple. The continuing resolution has in it help for Louisiana, and those people deserve that help but so do the people of Flint.

How easy is it? It is already paid for. We figured it out. It doesn't cost a penny. Unlike helping the people of Flint where we put that into the emergency spending, we have paid for the way to help the people of Flint and the children all over this country who have suffered from the impact of lead.

I want to show you some charts that demonstrate what it is like. This is what corrosive water has done to leach the lead out of these pipes. These are the drinking water pipes. Why did it happen? Because unelected people in Flint, appointed by the Governor there, decided they wanted to save a few bucks and they changed the source of the drinking water. They switched to a very corrosive drinking water. It leached all this lead out, and the lead poisoned the children. That is a simple fact in evidence. We need to fix it. We need to replace it.

I want to show you something else. This is what it looks like. If you saw this color water coming out of your tap, you would get out of the house with your family. I would get out of the house with my family. We are lucky. We have more resources than a lot of folks.

I want to show you some more pictures and some more charts. This headline: "Pregnant women, kids cautioned over Jackson water, lead."

This is Newsweek: "WITH LEAD IN THE WATER, COULD SEBRING, OHIO BECOME THE NEXT FLINT?"

The next Flint? These are other cities in our country where the lead is leaching into the drinking water. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. We fixed it over here, all of us together. Now we are being told by the Republican leader that he can't possibly take care of it in the continuing resolution while he takes care of other places. Since when do we play God and decide which people are deserving of our help? When they are suffering, you help people. When there has been terrible mistakes made with the drinking water supply, you help people, and we did it in a way that is financially and fiscally responsible. We figured out a way to pay for this new program that will not only help Flint pay for their pipes but will help cities like this all over the country.

Here is another headline: "Elevated Lead Levels Found in Newark Schools' Drinking Water."

"Lead in water not confined to Flint."

Our provision that we put in helps people all over this great Nation of ours. What else do we have to show? I want to tell you the list of organizations who are calling to add aid to Flint and these other cities into the continuing resolution: The AFL-CIO, Catholic Charities, First Focus Campaign for Children, the Congressional Black Caucus, Human Rights—represents more than 200 national organizations—A. Philip Randolph Institute, the ACLU, African American Ministers, American University Women, American Family Voices, American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, American Islamic Congress, American Rivers, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Americans for Democratic Action, Andrew Goodman Foundation, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific American Alliance, Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Campaign for America's Future, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, Center for Community Change Action.

We can see all the interfaith groups. Every religion is asking the majority leader to take care of these children. For God's sake, where is your heart? Where is your heart?

We have paid for it. We have taken care of it. We are helping Flint. We are helping all the communities. Let's continue to see these groups: Center for Law and Social Policy, Children's Defense Fund, Children's Health Fund, Common Cause, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Environment America, Every Child Matters, International Association of Official Human

Rights Agencies, National Association of Social Workers, National Black Justice Coalition, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation Black Women's Roundtable, Jobs With Justice, the League of Conservation Voters, the League of United Latin American Citizens, MomsRising, the NAACP, the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

Where are your values? Where are your religious values, I say to the majority leader. You can take care of this, and it doesn't cost a penny, and you will shut down the government rather than do this? You have to be kidding.

Here are some more organizations: National Council of La Raza, National Disability Rights Network, National Education Association, National Employment Law Project, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Jobs for All Coalition, National Urban League, National Women's Law Center, the National WIC Association.

Do you know what WIC stands for? Women, Infants and Children. They make sure our babies are healthy, and they know there is no safe exposure of lead in a child, and they know lead builds up.

Here are more organizations: Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, Service Employees International Union, the Sierra Club, the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, Voices for Progress, People for the American Way.

We don't want to listen to Democrats? Listen to the churches. Listen to the great religions. Listen to the people who fight for children. Put Flint in the continuing resolution. It doesn't cost a penny.

I want to go back to the photo of what it looks like when lead comes out of the water. I want to show you that picture. That is what it looks like. The majority leader, when asked about this, says: Oh, I don't have to put this in the continuing resolution. I just know, I know that we are going to get this in the Water Resources Development Act.

As I started out saying, this Senate voted by more than 90 votes to fix Flint and to fix this problem with lead in the drinking water by setting up a paid-for program in the WRDA bill. I thank Senator INHOFE, my chairman. What a joy to work with him and his staff office. He is committed to this. I am committed to this.

What about the House? Because I don't have to tell you or explain to you how a bill becomes a law. It has to go to the Senate. It has to go to the House. It has to go through a conference committee to debate the differences, then it has to go to the President to either sign or veto. OK. The House passed a WRDA bill. Guess what is not in their bill? Flint.

Guess what is not in their bill? Any provision to deal with lead in drinking water. They think: Trust us. We don't need it in the CR. Let's take care of these other people, but we don't need a continuing resolution. Don't shut down the government. Come on. We will take care of it in WRDA. Really? Well, they had a chance yesterday to allow an amendment to add Flint's provisions to the WRDA bill. Guess what they did. They said no. They said no. They will not even allow a vote. Chairman SESSIONS—not Senator SESSIONS, this is Chairman SESSIONS over there in the Rules Committee. He said: You know, Flint can be an earmark. Well, No. 1, it is not an earmark because we take care of all areas where there is lead in the drinking water.

No. 2, what did PAUL RYAN say? The Speaker over there, the one who said he is so compassionate for poor people, said: This is a local matter.

A local matter? How is it a local matter, when the people of Flint were being governed by people appointed by the Governor and they decided to save money and they didn't care what happened? They went to a cheaper water supply and they poisoned the people.

A local matter, really? Is it a local matter to not have safe drinking water? Really? Ask the people who served when Richard Nixon was the President, and he started all the environmental landmark laws.

People have a right to clean air. People have a right to clean water. People have a right to safe drinking water. People have a right to these things, and we have a responsibility to ensure that they have that right because the consequences are dire.

A local matter? That is Speaker RYAN, the Republican Speaker, who said he is so compassionate. Why isn't he making this happen? Why isn't he helping us? We cannot trust the House to address Flint. They proved it yesterday. They will not even allow an amendment. All they have to do is allow an amendment and the amendment passes, same as the Senate, send it to the President. It is in the bill. We are done. We are happy. Then you don't have to put it in the continuing resolution. All you have to do is take up and pass the Senate bill, the Senate WRDA bill, which passed here with over 95 votes. Do you think they would take it and pass it in a time when we can't even agree on a resolution commending Mother's Day? We can't even agree on something simple.

We agreed with 95 votes on a WRDA bill. Take it up and pass it, get it off the plate, and then we can get this issue behind us. They will not do it.

The suffering in Flint has gone on for far too long. The crisis began in 2014, when that unelected Flint leadership appointed by the Republican Governor of Michigan cut costs by switching the water supply to the corrosive Flint River. The city managers failed to use corrosion control measures, and that was a disaster because lead began

leaching into the water from the aging drinking water pipes.

We will show those pipes again. Look at that picture. That is frightening.

It wasn't until January of 2016 when the government declared a state of emergency. Meanwhile, a local doctor began warning of the high levels of lead in children's blood, but State officials assured those parents their water was safe to drink. One hundred thousand working-class Americans in Flint—African Americans, White Americans, Hispanic Americans—41 percent living below the poverty line, used contaminated water for drinking, for cooking, for bathing for months without knowing about it because these so-called local officials appointed by the Republican Governor refused to tell them there was a problem, and the Republican leadership here has the temerity to say those people don't deserve relief or say that we will take care of it in the Water Resources Development Act, when yesterday the House refused to do it. There are 12,000 Flint children who were exposed to lead-tainted water, according to NBC. Those children will be dealing with the harmful consequences of lead contamination for the rest of their lives. No safe level of lead is known. There is no safe level, and the exposures are generally irreversible.

What does lead do? It harms the developing brains and nervous systems of children and fetuses. This is a tragedy. Yet the Republican leader comes to the floor and says: Oh, we will take care of it after the election. Don't worry about it.

No, that is wrong. That is not right.

In my position as the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and before that, as chairman, I swear I could stand here and tell you I gave my heart and soul for the people of Louisiana and the gulf coast when they were hit by strife. I went to Louisiana. I stood with the people of Louisiana. I stand with them now. They deserve our help. So do the people of Flint, and so do the people of all the communities that are suffering from lead in drinking water.

It has been over 9 months since Flint was granted an emergency declaration, and the citizens continue to deal with the horrible water crisis. They do not have access to safe drinking water. This started in 2014, and in 2016 the Republican leader doesn't understand that is wrong, that we haven't helped those people. Come on. Don't hide behind the Water Resources Development Act because in the House they have not agreed to fix it. Why are Republicans picking and choosing communities that deserve our help?

We are going to have a vote today, and that vote is important. We need to be strong. We need to say we are for helping the people of Louisiana, we are for helping people, but we are not for leaving out these poisoned children and this community that has been suffering when we can fix it without a penny of taxpayer cost.

I hope we are going to vote no on that, and maybe then the leader will decide to put Flint into this continuing resolution. We cannot play games with this. This can be fixed. Ninety-five Senators know how to fix it. This can be fixed.

We are very worried about this issue of lead in drinking water because millions of homes across America receive water from pipes that date to an era before scientists fully understood the harm of lead exposure, so there are lead pipes. If you put the wrong type of water into those pipes, it will leach the lead out. So families are unknowingly bathing in lead, they are drinking lead, and they are cooking with lead. This is wrong.

The Presiding Officer has to hear this. This is very important to hear. We don't just fix the problem in Flint, we set up a new program to help communities all over the country. The American Water Works Association estimates that as many as 22 million Americans have lead service lines. So what are we going to say? We won't take care of this in the continuing resolution; we will just throw it over into the water bill. Yet the House Republicans are very disinterested in this.

I have read the organizations—and this is the first time I have actually looked at all those organizations.

I just wish to make this last plea to the Republican leader and to all of you who run this place here, for now, and that is this: If we are here for any reason—and we thank God we are here. What an honor it is to be here. As I look at my days dwindling down in the Senate, I am filled with an emotion that I have been able to help so many people. Why are we here? Not to hurt people, not to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people, but to step up to the plate and say: You know what, we understand, and we are going to help. We have a chance to do that.

I was so proud of my partnership with my Republican friends on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We took care of this in the WRDA bill. We solved the problem in a fiscally responsible way and a judicious way. We have it solved. It is done. The work is done, and 95 Senators stood behind that work.

What we want to say to the House is this: Take up and pass the Senate bill. Take care of this matter. If you can't do that, give us an ironclad commitment that you will absolutely get it done.

Short of that, it has to go into the continuing resolution. Until then, what we are doing in the continuing resolution is saying yes to the suffering and pain of some of our beloved citizens and no to the suffering and pain of another set of our beloved citizens. This is the United States of America, not the Divided States of America. We care for all our children, for all our families. We look at safe drinking water as a right. That is why we have the Safe Drinking Water Act. That is why we

have the Clean Water Act. These were signed by Republicans and Democrats, signed into law by Republican and Democratic Presidents.

I hope that the leader, with whom I have had some excellent relations of late, will rethink this and that we can leave here in an election year knowing we helped all the people.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Senate is scheduled to vote at 2:15 on the continuing resolution. The resolution will provide \$1.1 billion in emergency funding to respond to the Zika virus outbreak. Funds are included to accelerate vaccine development, provide mosquito control in areas where the virus is being transmitted, and address health conditions related to the Zika virus.

The bill also includes \$500 million to help Louisiana, West Virginia, and other States recover from devastating floods. We will continue to assess the total recovery needs in those States, but this funding is needed immediately to help get residents back into their homes and businesses.

The fiscal year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill is also included in this legislation. The bill provides record levels of funding for medical care and other important veterans programs. It also funds housing for military personnel and their families and supports infrastructure that sustains U.S. military forces.

Enactment of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill would mark the first time since 2009 that a regular appropriations bill has been signed into law before the end of the fiscal year. This would be another step in the right direction as we seek more regular consideration of appropriations measures.

This legislation also includes a continuing resolution to sustain government operations at current levels until December 9. This will give us additional time to complete work on the fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills. I am pleased that the Appropriations Committee reported all 12 of the regular appropriations bills for the second year in a row. The Senate has approved three of these bills. We look forward to completing our work on the remainder.

I urge the Senate to approve the continuing resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support this cloture motion this afternoon and move forward in passing the continuing resolution to fund our government through December 9.

Flooding is a national emergency. I have heard many Members talk about the flooding in Louisiana, West Virginia, and Texas.

It is a devastating circumstance we find ourselves in in the State of West

Virginia. Twenty-three West Virginians lost their lives. Amazingly, the last victim was found—a 14-year-old girl—probably just a month ago. Twelve counties were declared Federal disaster areas. For some areas of West Virginia, this was a thousand-year event. It came up so quickly. Some of our oldest and our poorest communities suffered serious destruction, and nearly 90 percent of the homes and businesses affected did not have flood insurance.

I toured most all of the affected areas and talked to some very brave people and very brave local mayors, who were doing a great job. There are 5,100 homes and businesses that have suffered a loss, as verified by FEMA. Seventy-five percent of the affected homes have been deemed unsafe by inspectors, so we have thousands of people who are not living in a permanent home situation. Some are still living in temporary situations that are unsafe, and certainly, moving into the fall, it would be very unhealthy.

There is a significant need for resources to help communities, individuals, and small businesses to recover, and disaster-related needs go beyond the disaster reimbursement provided by FEMA. Our Governor, Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia, wrote to President Obama earlier this month outlining the significant need for disaster aid. The Governor's letter identified \$310 million in flood-related needs from the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program.

I am a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I very much appreciate our chairman, Senator COCHRAN, coming to the floor today to implore, after all this hard work trying to get this continuing resolution confirmed.

I have worked hard to secure the resources in this bill for our West Virginia flood victims. The legislation we will vote on today takes an important step to address flood recovery in disaster-stricken portions of West Virginia and certainly for our friends in Louisiana and other parts of the country. I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. I thank the leader for listening to me. I thank Chairman COCHRAN and Senator COLLINS, who chairs the subcommittee, for responding favorably to my request for these desperately needed resources.

This bill begins to address this by including funds for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. Those funds will help meet housing and infrastructure needs in communities impacted by the flooding in West Virginia and all across the country.

Given the need in my State and other States, such as Louisiana and Texas, additional disaster funds beyond those in this bill will be needed. This is an emergency. This means now. These floods occurred several months ago.

I could have easily come to the floor today and heralded the record funding

this bill includes for our Nation's veterans or the important resources it provides to help combat our opioid and heroin epidemic—something that is devastating my State and many States across this country. These are needs facing all States. They should have been addressed by our regular appropriations bills.

No one likes the fact—well, I don't think anyone likes the fact that a continuing resolution is necessary. The Senate Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member, passed all 12 of the appropriations bills. Many of them were bipartisan and worked out between the chair and the ranking member. I wish the Senate had acted on all of these. We tried for weeks and weeks to get cooperation to move through these bills in a predictable and very responsible manner so that we could have addressed our Nation's priorities in a fiscally responsible way. But this bill today keeps our government open and provides the additional resources to help our flood victims who are still suffering so much. It helps our veterans, and it helps to address those who are suffering this new and devastating scourge of opioid and heroin addiction. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to also speak about the continuing resolution, and I speak in opposition to the continuing resolution.

I just want to say to the Senator from West Virginia that I so respect the leadership role she has played in the Senate. What a diligent Senator she is, in her advocacy for West Virginia and the flood victims who really have not only my sympathy but as the vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations, I would like to be of help to her and to the people of Louisiana and West Virginia, but I would also say we can't leave out Flint, MI. We just can't.

Now, we don't want to "Christmas tree" the bill—she and I are experienced legislators—but really, when we think about Flint, imagine living off of bottled water. Imagine trying to run a small business. I don't know if my father who had a small grocery store could have kept it open. I do hope we can put our heads together to come up with a solution, get rid of the poison pill riders, and meet the compelling human needs, as the Senator articulated so well, and find a solution to keeping the doors of government open. Right now we need an open mind in talking with each other, and so I look forward to being able to do that.

Mr. President, I do come here to discuss keeping the government open. That is really important to me. I have 300,000 Federal employees in Maryland, and they do everything from working at NIH to find a cure for cancer or find a cure for Alzheimer's to working at the weather service so we can provide

communities large and small throughout America the information about the weather they need to prepare for everything from natural disasters to planning to prevent our oranges and peaches from freezing on the trees.

The Senate has until Friday of this week to avoid a government shutdown. As I said last week—and I have said many times—Democrats are ready to negotiate. We are willing to compromise, but there are certain things we cannot capitulate on, and Flint, MI, is one.

Last week, the majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, **Mr. MCCONNELL**, filed a Republican continuing funding resolution. The leader has "filled the tree," which is Senate speak for meaning we cannot amend the continuing resolution before us. So we are stuck. We are stuck in the same old ways, with the drama of being so close to the deadline, it can threaten a showdown, a slamdown. This is not where we want to go.

What do Democrats want? Well, we want what the American people should want. No. 1, let us keep the government open through December 9. Now, I am not saying shut it down December 9. I am saying that by December 9, we could come to a complete omnibus bill, meaning our total funding for the fiscal year that lies ahead.

Second, as Americans, we need to look at each other across the aisle, across State borders, and meet compelling, urgent needs, such as Zika, such as the floods in Louisiana and West Virginia and other States, and in Flint, MI.

We need to be free of poison pill riders like the rider preventing the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring companies to tell investors where they are putting their political contributions. What is wrong with that? Shouldn't we have an open and transparent process? We are not asking any company to reveal their trade secrets, but trading in political contributions should not be a trade secret. It is about are you trading, are you ashamed—are you ashamed of your political contribution? Wow. Is that what you want to do? You want to hide it? I don't think that is America. We are not saying to whom companies should give, but they should tell us to whom they did give.

Let us also provide a full year of funding for our veterans and our military construction, most of all for our veterans. Talk about compelling human needs. We are just weeks away from once again celebrating Veterans Day. Celebrating veterans shouldn't be just 1 day a year. It has to be every day of every year.

We have men and women—some of whom have served in the Senate, such as the distinguished Senator from Georgia, **Mr. Max Cleland**, and others—who come back bearing the permanent wounds of war, and we need to pay and bear the permanent responsibility for caring for those who did serve. We need

to be able to back our veterans and not just with lip service and wonderful yellow ribbons. We need to do our duty. We have the funding ready for the defense of the Nation and the things to protect America outside of DOD.

We have agreed on helping with Zika and victims in Louisiana, but the Republican continuing resolution doesn't help Flint, MI, and it includes poison pills. So I want to end the partisan gamesmanship—no shutdowns, no slamdowns, no showdowns. That is why I want to be clear about three changes I strongly recommend.

No. 1, we need Flint, MI, funding. I see the Senator from Michigan is now on the floor. She is a sister social worker, and I so admire her unabashed, unrelenting, unflagging support, particularly for the children and particularly for the small businesses for Flint, MI. She has been so steadfast, unflagging and unrelenting, and we need to be the same way.

We had \$220 million for water infrastructure that passed in the Water Resources Development Act on a vote of 95 to 3. Guess what. It is fully paid for. So what is the problem? What is the problem with Flint, MI?

When I think about Flint, I think about little children with lead in their drinking water. What does that do? It stifles intellectual development. It inhibits you for the rest of your life from fulfilling your God-given full intention. If we respect life, we should do all we can to sustain it.

Then, think about small businesses. Think about trying to run a business when you don't have water. Water, water, everywhere water, water, but none of it fit to drink. How do you run a little diner? How do you run a little diner or a produce stand?

As I said, my father owned a small grocery store. Everything was spotless. Everything was meticulously clean. He made sure his fruits and vegetables were clean. Everything was clean. He didn't have lead in the water. So let's get on with it.

We know there are people in this country who have been hit by floods. They have too much water. Flint has too much of the wrong water. We can right that wrong by just joining our hands and understanding compelling human need. It doesn't come from a Democrat or a Republican ZIP Code, it comes from the United States of America, and we should be united in dealing with it.

We should strip out the poison pill riders, such as the SEC political contribution transparency rider. We should reduce the Zika offset package to \$375 million. These are reasonable changes that if the Republican caucus is willing to agree, we could pass the continuing resolution today.

I remind my colleagues that when I became the first woman to chair the Committee on Appropriations upon the death of the esteemed Senator **Inouye**, the funding to respond to Hurricane Sandy was on the floor. Working together, we were able to pass that bill

and meet compelling human need. I would like to be able to do that now.

Throughout my tenure as the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations, I have lived by the principle that we owe the American people help when disaster strikes. We should respond to Zika that is now affecting 23,000 people, 2,000 pregnant women. We need to help the victims of Louisiana and other States that have been hit. We just saw the terrible things going on in Iowa. We must help the 100,000 people in Flint who are still waiting for the water in their pipes to be clean and their children, being exposed to lead, protected. The people of Flint need help.

We passed the WRDA bill, and we need now to pass a CR that gets rid of poison pill riders, meets compelling human needs in every part of our country, and also makes sure our veteran funding is there to ensure there is no backlog in applying for their disability benefits and no backlog when they try to get to see a doctor.

I am so proud of my Committee on Appropriations that is working with the VA on the veterans bill. We have a wonderful bipartisan bill working to meet the needs of rural veterans and veterans who had to wait in line for mental health needs and the other support we need to help with.

So let's do our job, really. Hello? Let's do our job. I believe there is still time to work this out, but until we do, I oppose cloture on the McConnell substitute.

Mr. President, that concludes my remarks, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, the first thing I want to do is thank our very distinguished Democratic ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations, the former chair, Senator MIKULSKI. She has been with us every step of the way.

I have learned a lot about lead exposure. I thought I knew a lot, but by sitting down with Senator MIKULSKI, when we have had an opportunity to have discussions about potential treatments to help and impacts regarding the lead, I have learned how very frightening it is, particularly for children what lead poisoning means.

Over the years, I have appreciated Senator MIKULSKI's advocacy and leadership with the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and in other areas on health care. That leadership has made a tremendous difference, including helping to create a way to have some options on treatment for children. So I want to thank her. We are going to greatly miss her. I don't think we are going to let her go. She is just amazing, as is her staff and their commitment and

support and understanding of what the people in Flint are going through.

Two weeks ago now, we were feeling like we were on our way finally. We spent the last 8 months getting through various procedural hurdles and objections to get help for Flint and other communities with lead poisoning and other water issues. We had a bill come to the floor, and I greatly appreciate the majority leader bringing it to the floor. We had a terrific bipartisan team, with Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER leading us in passing a very important bill. As I have said, it passed 95 to 3. That doesn't happen a lot around here—95 to 3. We thought we were on our way. The families of Flint were in town at that time, and we felt like, finally, maybe there was some hope.

We were told WRDA would be coming up quickly the next week in the House. That didn't happen. What we saw instead were comments that House leadership—the Speaker and the chairman of the committee—would not support Flint being a part of the House WRDA bill.

We have heard, on the one hand, that we should wait for WRDA, and then the same people say, but we don't support putting Flint in WRDA. OK. We have the same people saying this is a local issue, while the House Government and Oversight Committee and Chairman CHAFFETZ held hearings, bringing in the EPA Administrator and challenging her to step down because of what the EPA did in Flint. So, OK, it is local. No, it is the EPA, which is Federal.

We feel like we are being bounced back and forth and back and forth, and the bottom line is, people in Flint still can't drink the water. Since mid-August, we have had more than 611,000 cases of bottled water delivered to families in Flint. In fact, "delivered" is the wrong word because most of the time they have to figure out a way to pick it up. If you are riding a bus, walking, or if you have a car, you are trying to figure out when you are going to get the bottled water to bathe in, feed your children with, cook with. This has gone on day after day after day.

So while we thought we had a path, now it is extremely unclear. I trust our leaders here—Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER—in the Senate, but we are getting a very different message from the House of Representatives, and then all of a sudden we have a short-term appropriations bill, a continuing resolution, where we could, in fact, stop all the back-and-forth, ping-ponging, and get this done for the people of Flint. We are told no. The people of Flint are told no. Then all of a sudden there is help for Louisiana.

I am happy to support the people of Louisiana. It would be a tragedy and, frankly, an outrageous way to make decisions if the answer, after all of this, is, OK, we won't help Louisiana, either. That is not what we are suggesting. We are saying that whether it is hurricanes, floods, disaster assist-

ance; whether it is livestock disaster assistance, which I put in the last farm bill, which affects very few people in Michigan but an awful lot of people in the West and the South; whether it is that or a fertilizer plant explosion caused by various issues of malfeasance in West Texas that exposed people to chemicals, and the Federal Government came in to help—wherever it is, we step up together in extraordinary circumstances when there is an emergency, a disaster beyond the control of the citizens and the community involved, and we help. This has not been partisan in the past. We have not decided by ZIP Code or whether you had a Republican Senator or a Democratic Senator representing you. We have stepped up together to support efforts, and I supported every single one of them. What is different about Flint, MI? That is the question. The only thing I know that is different is that we have actually agreed to eliminate a program to fully pay for what we are doing to help. Normally it is not paid for; it goes on the deficit. We don't see a program being eliminated to fund the floods in Louisiana or other areas, but we took the extra step. We are actually phasing out a program that affects predominantly Michigan, that I authored in the 2007 Energy bill, because of the urgency and the dire circumstances in the city of Flint. That is the only difference I see, is that it costs nothing to do this—nothing. We could do it by unanimous consent today. It costs nothing.

So then the real question is, well, why? Why is there such a problem? Why is there such a problem including something that costs nothing on this short-term appropriations bill? I don't get it. The people of Flint don't get it. The fact is, I hear from people all over the country who don't get it.

This is an opportunity today, and I am strongly urging that we reject the continuing resolution in front of us and ask the leaders to go back to the drawing board and get it right and to indicate that we see, we hear, and we care about 100,000 people in Flint, MI; about 9,000 children under the age of 6; about people who live in homes that have some lead levels higher than a toxic waste dump; about the mom who was here 2 weeks ago whose daughter was bright and engaged and going to school and now, after lead exposure, is lethargic, is not focused, and she can't eat a sandwich because her teeth are crumbling because she had zero vitamin D—zero. When she was tested, the doctors immediately put her into the hospital to give her massive doses of vitamin D for her bones. How do I tell that mom that we could help her now and it is not going to happen? I don't get it.

It is time to vote no on this procedural motion on the CR and get back to work and make sure that families who had floods in Louisiana, in West Virginia, and other places get the support they need and that we help in partnering—to help, not total, but help

with some of the costs that will put the water back on in Flint.

When you turn on the faucet today, wherever you are, think about what would happen if you didn't have confidence that what came out of that faucet wasn't going to poison you. This is the United States of America. We can do better than this. This body has supported doing better than this. It is time to get it done.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 5082, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. McCONNELL, to H.R. 5325, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Donnelly	Murkowski
Ayotte	Enzi	Nelson
Barrasso	Ernst	Portman
Blunt	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Flake	Roberts
Burr	Gardner	Rounds
Capito	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Shelby
Coats	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cochran	Isakson	Tester
Collins	Johnson	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Cotton	McCain	Vitter
Crapo	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—55

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Perdue
Bennet	Heller	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Inhofe	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Sasse
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Lankford	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Scott
Casey	Lee	Sessions
Coons	Markey	Shaheen
Cruz	McCaskey	Stabenow
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Graham	Murray	
Heinrich	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 55.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 40, nays 59, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Alexander	Coats	Fischer
Ayotte	Cochran	Flake
Barrasso	Collins	Gardner
Blunt	Corker	Grassley
Boozman	Cornyn	Hatch
Burr	Crapo	Hoeven
Capito	Enzi	Isakson
Cassidy	Ernst	Johnson

Kirk
McCain
Moran
Murkowski
Portman
Risch

Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Toomey
Vitter
Wicker

NAYS—59

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Paul
Bennet	Heller	Perdue
Blumenthal	Hirono	Peters
Booker	Inhofe	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sasse
Cardin	Lankford	Schatz
Carper	Leahy	Schumer
Casey	Lee	Scott
Coons	Manchin	Sessions
Cruz	Markey	Shaheen
Daines	McCaskey	Stabenow
Donnelly	McConnell	Tester
Durbin	Menendez	Udall
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden
Heinrich	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 40, the nays are 59.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Let me just say to my colleagues that Senate Republicans are prepared to pass a clean CR-Zika bill. We hope that important flood relief will be a part of it. We will continue working on this important matter.

We are now going to an important security briefing, and I will have more to say about the matter later today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2555

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 446, S. 2555. I further ask that the Thune amendment be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Bob Dole, whom we all knew and still know and who is a wonderful man, said: "As we all learn around here, if you don't keep your word, it doesn't make much difference what agenda you try to advance."

So it is very difficult for me to allow Senator THUNE's bill to advance today. I have great respect for him, and that is without any question.

I am still waiting, though, on Republicans to keep a promise they made nearly 18 months ago on the Senate floor. They came to me and said: It is so important to John Kyl, whom I also